

**Claims**

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of editing objects displayed on a video display by a computer system, the  
5 method comprising:  
  
detecting an edit operation for an object displayed on the video display by the computer  
  
system; and  
  
sending an edit operation request to an abstraction layer via an interface provided by the  
  
abstraction layer to initiate editing of the object by the abstraction layer.  
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein sending the edit operation request to the abstraction layer  
  
further comprises sending one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein editing of the object by the abstraction layer comprises:  
15 receiving the edit operation request;  
  
determining a container type for a container in which the object is displayed;  
  
reading a set of properties related to the object to be edited;  
  
reading a set of properties related to the container in which the object is displayed to  
  
determine a type for the container; and  
20 editing the object based on the container type and the received edit operation request.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein receiving the edit operation request further comprises  
  
receiving one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
- 25 5. The method of claim 4, wherein editing the object further comprises editing the object  
  
based on the one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein editing the object comprises modifying one or more properties of the object.
- 5 7. The method of claim 3, wherein editing the object comprises modifying one or more properties of the container.
8. A system for editing objects displayed on a video display comprising:  
a processor; and  
10 a memory coupled with and readable by the processor and containing instructions that,  
when executed by the processor, cause the processor to detect an edit operation for  
an object displayed on the video display by the computer system, send an edit  
operation request to an abstraction layer via an interface provided by the  
abstraction layer to initiate editing of the object by the abstraction layer causing  
15 the abstraction layer to receive the edit operation request, determine a container  
type for a container in which the object is displayed, read a set of properties  
related to the object to be edited, read a set of properties related to the container in  
which the object is displayed to determine a type for the container, and edit the  
object based on the container type and the received edit operation request.  
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9. The system of claim 8, wherein sending the edit operation request to the abstraction layer  
further comprises sending one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
10. The system of claim 8, wherein the abstraction layer receives one or more parameters  
25 associated with the edit operation.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein editing the object further comprises editing the object based on the one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
12. The system of claim 8, wherein editing the object comprises modifying one or more properties of the object.
13. The system of claim 8, wherein editing the object comprises modifying one or more properties of the container.
14. A machine-readable medium encoding a computer program of instructions for editing objects displayed on a video display by a computer system, said computer process comprising:
  - detecting an edit operation for an object displayed on the video display by the computer system; and
  - sending an edit operation request to an abstraction layer via an interface provided by the abstraction layer to initiate editing of the object by the abstraction layer.
15. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein sending the edit operation request to the abstraction layer further comprises sending one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
16. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein editing of the object by the abstraction layer comprises:
  - receiving the edit operation request;
  - determining a container type for a container in which the object is displayed;
  - reading a set of properties related to the object to be edited;

reading a set of properties related to the container in which the object is displayed to  
determine a type for the container; and  
editing the object based on the container type and the received edit operation request.

- 5     17.     The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein receiving the edit operation request  
further comprises receiving one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
18.     The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein editing the object further comprises  
editing the object based on the one or more parameters associated with the edit operation.
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19.     The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein editing the object comprises  
modifying one or more properties of the object.
20.     The machine-readable medium of claim 17, wherein editing the object comprises  
15     modifying one or more properties of the container.